

cc / Col. Grogan

24/04/60

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Executive Secretary, SSS

5 April 1960

Chief, Records Management Staff

Return of OSS Records from the National Archives

REFERENCE: Memo of 22 April 1958 from Stanley J. Grogan to The Director;
Subject: OSS Records in the Custody of the National Archives

1. The purpose of this memo is to record the status of the recommendation contained in above reference and to list alternatives in completing the actions requested.
2. During the year 1959, OSS records described in items 2 and 3, Annex A of above reference were withdrawn from National Archives. The property records described in item 2 were destroyed by the National Archives and the Pictorial Records Section files described in item 3 were transferred to the CIA Archives and Records Center. As a result of these actions, CIA has no textual records of OSS in the National Archives.
3. However, the film described in item 1, Attachment A, remains in the custody of the National Archives because legal ownership of the reels ostensibly resides with the Department of the Army. The film was transferred to the National Archives in 1946 by SCU, War Department. Both the National Archives and the Records Management Officer of Department of the Army consider the film Army property.
4. As matters now stand, CIA has these alternatives in respect to this film:
 - a. Since the film is considered Army property, and since the Army Records Management Officer assumes administrative responsibility in regard to use of the film, drop the idea of requesting return to CIA.
 - b. Write a letter to the Army requesting transfer of the film to CIA. Such a transfer would have to be concurred in by the Archivist of the United States. The Army Records Officer is willing to concur in the transfer if CIA can give him "good reasons."

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c. Establish legal title to the film by proving to the Archivist of the United States and the Records Management Officer of the Army that USU was transferred to this Agency.

d. Effect a withdrawal of the film by an Army component. This approach was suggested by [REDACTED] of GJ/CR. It is my understanding that he is now contacting the Signal Corps on the matter.

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4. Any further action on our part will be deferred pending the outcome of [REDACTED] efforts. If, in the meantime, we can be of assistance, please let us know.

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✓ CC: Col. Grogan

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